



THE LEGENDARY
DEMON
PRINCESS
SUZUKA GOZEN
ARRIVES!

THE LEGEND OF ONIKIRIMARU

CHAPTER 9:
THE ARRIVAL OF THE
DEMON PRINCESS

KEI KUSUNOKI



A LONG
TIME
AGO...

PRINCESS SUZUKA
HAD THREE
MAGICAL SWORDS,
DAITSUUREN,
SHOUTSUUREN,
AND KENMYOUREN.
DAITSUUREN WAS
SAID TO BE
THE AVATAR OF
THE MONJU
BODHISATVA,
AND KENMYOUREN
WAS SAID TO BE
ABLE TO SEE ALL
THE THREE
THOUSAND
WORLDS...

THE VETERAN
DEMON PRINCESS
SUZUKA GOZEN
WAS THE WIFE OF
A DEMON FROM
OUSHUU NAMED
AKURO'OU.
BUT, WITH THE AID
OF THE HUMAN
SAKANQUE,
TAMURAMARO,
SHE DEFEATED THE
DEMONS
AKURO'OU,
TAKEMARU, AND
OOTAKEMARU
ONE AFTER
ANOTHER.



I DON'T
KNOW.
IT WAS
400
YEARS
AGO,
YOU SEE.



WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HER
AFTER
THAT?



THE
DEMON
IN THE
CAPITAL?

IF ONLY
SHE COULD
DEFEAT
THE DEMON
IN THE
CAPITAL.



EMPEROR
SUTOKU.



AND NOT ONLY
THE SOULS OF
THE DEAD-IT
EVEN GRANTS
POWER TO THOSE
WHO'VE BEEN
ACCIDENTALLY
GIVEN THE
SAME NAME.

IF YOU SPEAK
THEIR NAMES
FOR ANY
REASON BUT
TO WORSHIP
THEM, THEY
TRANSFORM
INTO AN EVIL
BEING.

BE QUIET!
YOU MUST
NOT SPEAK
THE NAME OF
THE DEAD.





IT SUMMONS
THEM TO US.

I AM EMPEROR SUTOKUI!

ROAR



AAHI
GRANNIE!



I'VE
FOUND YOU,
EMPEROR
SUTOKUI

SLASH



WHAT?
THAT
WAS
FAR
TOO
EASY.



WAS THAT REALLY
EMPEROR SUTOKU,
WHO WROTE A
MESSAGE IN HIS OWN
BLOOD BEFORE HE
DIED, SAYING THAT
HE WOULD BECOME
A GREAT DEVIL?





HUMANS ARE
SO WEAK,
AND SO FOOLISH.







COULD
SHE BE...?



HOW
DO YOU
KNOW
THAT?

I CAN SENSE
A SLIGHT
DEMONIC
AURA ABOUT
HER.



THE
DEMON WHO
STALKS THE
CAPITAL IS A
DIFFERENT
CREATURE.

THE
EMPEROR'S
SOUL
HAS BEEN
PURIFIED,
AND HE IS
AT PEACE.



I SAW
IT IN A
DREAM.



NO...

I'LL BE
ON MY
WAY.

DO YOU
BELIEVE
THE
MESSAGE
IN MY
DREAM?









NO, THERE
IS A GREATER
DEMON IN THE
CAPITAL.

IT'S
OKAY
NOW,
ALL
RIGHT?

THE
DEMON
STALKING
THE
CAPITAL IS
GONE?

GRANDMA,
THAT WAS
SCARY!



EMPEROR SUTOKU.

FIRST SON OF
EMPEROR TOBA,
HE ASCENDED TO THE
CHRYSANTHEMUM
THRONE AT A MERE FIVE
YEARS OLD. HIS YOUNG
ASCENSION FORCED HIS
FATHER TO RETIRE, AND
ENGENDERED MUCH
HATRED TOWARDS HIM.
18 YEARS LATER, HIS
YOUNGER HALF-BROTHER,
EMPEROR KONOE,
FORCED HIM FROM
THE THRONE AND EXILED
HIM FROM POLITICS.
WHEN HIS FATHER,
TOBA, DIED IN 1156,
HE WAS NOT EVEN
ALLOWED TO ATTEND
HIM AT HIS BEDSIDE.

A DEMON
WHO GIVES
HIMSELF
THE NAME
OF THE
EMPEROR.

HOWEVER,
A SURPRISE
ATTACK
DEFEATED
SUTOKU'S
FORCES IN
A SINGLE
NIGHT, AND
HE WAS
EXILED TO
SANUKI
PROVINCE.

THE FUJIWARA, GENJI,
AND HEIKE CLANS WERE
DIVIDED BETWEEN SUPPORTING
SUTOKU AND THE CURRENT
EMPEROR, GO-SHIRAKAWA.
THIS BEGAN THE HOUGEN
REBELLION.

THAT
SAME
YEAR, HE
RAISED
FORCES
TO TAKE
BACK
POWER.



IT HAD BEEN
392 YEARS SINCE
THE EXILE OF
AN EMPEROR.



CURSE
YOU!

CURSE
YOU!

BUT GO-SHIRAKAWA,
FEARING THEY WERE
CURSED, SENT THEM
BACK. SUTOKU WENT
MAD WITH RAGE.

IN EXILE, SUTOKU
REPENTED OF
HIS REBELLION AND
COPIED OUT SUTRAS
TO SEND TO THE
COURT AS A GIFT.



HE WOULD
BECOME A
GREAT DEVIL OF
THE LAND OF THE
RISING SUN...
AND MAKE
THE EMPEROR
A COMMONER,
AND A
COMMON MAN
THE EMPEROR!

IN 1164,
HE BIT
OFF HIS
TONGUE
AND WROTE
A CURSE IN
HIS OWN
BLOOD AS
HE DIED.



HOJUJI TEMPLE:
SHICHUOU MANSION

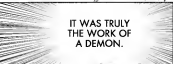




FIRES AND WHIRLWINDS
BROKE OUT ALL
OVER KYOTO.

...AND
ONE BY
ONE,
THE
MEMBERS
OF HIS
CLAN
BEGAN
TO FAIL.

AFTER HIS DEATH,
IT'S SAID THAT HIS
CURSE BECAME REAL,
STARTING WHEN
EMPEROR
GO SHIRAKAWA'S
WIFE, SHIGEKO,
DIED OF ILLNESS.



IT WAS TRULY
THE WORK OF
A DEMON.



BUT DON'T
WORRY.
I'VE HEARD
THERE'S
A PURE-
BLOODED
DEMON WHO
SLAYS OTHER
DEMONS.

ひえ!
twitew



HE WAS
BORN FROM
A DEMON,
AND GIVEN
ONIKIRIMARU,
THE ONLY
BLADE THAT
CAN CUT A
DEMON'S
FLESH.

THIS
PURE-
BLOODED
DEMON
SHALL
SURELY
SLAY
THE
DEMON
IN THE
CAPITAL.

I'LL BE ON
MY WAY...

SCUFF



ONIKIRI-
MARU...



JUST KILLING
THE DEMON
WON'T BE
ENOUGH.
YOU'LL NEED
HUMAN HELP.





HOJUJIJI TEMPLE:
SHICHUOU MANSION

THE HEIKE
AND THE
TEMPLE ARE
CONSPIRING
TO ISOLATE
ME!

OH, NO! MY PLOT
TO TAKE DOWN
THE HEIKE WAS
DISCOVERED
AND MY CLOSE
RETAINERS ARE
BEING SLAIN ONE
AFTER ANOTHER.

THE SHIKAGA-
TANI INCIDENT
OF 1177.

FORMER EMPEROR
GO-SHIRAKAWA

EMPEROR
SUTOKU'S
POST-
HUMOUS
TITLE IS
AKIHITO,
IS IT NOT?

IS THIS
ALSO THE
CURSE OF
EMPEROR
SUTOKU?

DAMN YOU,
SUTOKU! YOU'VE
BEEN DEAD FOR
TEN YEARS AND
STILL YOU WOULD
HAUNT US?



YOU CALL
HIM HIS NAME
FROM WHEN
HE WAS ALIVE.
NOT HIS TITLE.
THAT'S WHY
HE CURSES
YOU.



AND WHY HE
HAS TAKEN
PHYSICAL
FORM AND
BECOME A
DEMON.



YOU KEEP
SAYING
HIS
NAME...

ARE YOU
AN AVATAR
SENT BY
EMPEROR
SUTOKU?



THAT'S
HOW YOU
SUMMON
HIM.



WHO'S
THERE?





I AM
EMPEROR
SUTOKUI



AAAH!
FORGIVE ME,
EMPEROR
SUTOKUI



I AM
EMPEROR
SUTOKU

CURSE YOU,
EMPEROR
SUTOKU!
EVEN
ONIKIRIMARU
CANNOT SLAY
YOU!

EMPEROR SUTOKU
EMPEROR SUTOKU
EMPEROR SUTOKU
PLEASE
FORGIVE ME!



THAT IS NOT
EMPEROR
SUTOKU.



REST,
HUMAN.



I AM
EMPEROR
SUTOKUI



THAT IS
A DEMON,
FORMED
FROM
SMALLER
DEMONS AND
PLAGUE
DEMONS WHO
GREW IN
STRENGTH...

...AND
COMBINED
WHEN
GIVEN
THE NAME
EMPEROR
SUTOKU.



WHO
ARE
YOU?



EMPEROR
SUTOKU
APPEARED
IN MY
DREAMS,
SEEKING
SALVATION.



I NO
LONGER
CURSE
ANYONE.
PLEASE,
DESTROY
THE DEMON
WHO USES
MY NAME!



ROAR



COME
FORTH,
DAITSUU-
RENI



THE
VETERAN
DEMON
PRINCESS,
SUZUKA
GOZEN,
IS UPON
YOU!





I AM A
DEMON
PRINCESS,
WITH
ABSOLUTE
PROTECTION
FROM
DEMONS.





THEN
THAT'S
HOW...



IF YOU
ARE
ALSO A
DEMON,
YOU
CANNOT
HURT ME!

SLICE!



OBEY MY
COMMAND,
AND BE
DESTROYED!



THIS IS NOT
THE END.
THIS MUST
BE FINISHED
BY HUMAN
HANDS.





DOES THE
INCREDIBLE
DEMONIC
AURA
EMANATING
FROM YOU
COME FROM
SHUTEN DOUJI,
WHICH YOU
ABSORBED AT
YOUR BIRTH?

NO
DEMON
COULD
CUT ME,
FOR I AM
A DEMON
PRINCESS.

YOU
ARE A
DEMON,
AND YET
YOU ARE
NOT.

INSOLENT
WHELP.

YOUR TRUE
IDENTITY
IS THAT OF
THE CHILD
OF AN UN-
WORSHIPED
GOD.



IF YOU
ARE A
DEMON,
I WILL KILL
YOU! THAT
IS ALL.

I DON'T
CARE IF I AM
THE HATED
CHILD OF A
DEMON OR
NOT!

I LOVE
HUMANITY.
THAT
IS ALL.



기어! =!
FREEZE



I'M NOT
SAVING
HUMANITY.



I REFUSE TO
SAVE THE HUMANS
WHO LET MY
MOTHER DIE!

EVER SINCE
YOUR BIRTH
YOU HAVE
BEEN
WEEPING,
UNABLE TO
FORGIVE
HUMANITY.

I HAVE COME
BECAUSE
I WANTED
YOU TO
UNDERSTAND
HUMANS
BETTER.

IS THERE
SOME
REASON
THAT SUCH
A DEMON
CANNOT
EXIST?

IS IT SO
STRANGE?

YOU ARE
A DEMON,
YES?
A DEMON
CANNOT
LOVE
MANKIND.



A DEMON
LYING DOWN
WITH A
HUMAN?

I
CHANGED
WHEN I
GAVE
BIRTH
TO MY
DAUGH-
TER!

A DEMON IS A
DEMON FROM THE
MOMENT IS IT
BORN, BUT ALL
HUMANS ARE
BORN EQUALLY
NOBLE AND
INNOCENT.

I MARRIED
SAKANOE
TAMURA-
MARO,
A HUMAN,
AN
BORE HIS
DAUGHTER.



I WATCHED
MY DAUGH-
TER GROW
AND THEN
DIE.
HUMANS
AREN'T LIKE
DEMONS.

THEY ARE
STRONG BUT
EPHEMERAL
CREATURES
WITH VERY
SHORT LIVES.
THOSE DAYS
OF LOVE WERE
THE BEST OF
MY LIFE.



LOOK,
LIKE
HIM...

SOME
OF THEM
ARE
FOOLS.



UGH...



WHAT
IS THIS?



A FOOLISH MAN
WHO CREATED
A DEMON CALLED
EMPEROR SUTOKU
OUT OF HIS
OWN GUILT.



AAAAH
HELP ME!
IT IS THE
CURSE OF
EMPEROR
SUTOKUI



OF
COURSE,
I DO NOT
LOVE ALL
HUMANS.



AS LONG AS
IT REMAINS
UNSEALED,
EACH TIME
ITS NAME IS
CALLED, IT
WILL SLOWLY
BE REBORN.

AND A
DEMON
WITH A
NAME IS
THE WORST
OF THEM
ALL.

DAMN YOU,
EMPEROR
SUTOKU!





WAIT, ONIKIRIMARU.
THERE ARE WAYS
TO DEAL WITH
DEMONS THAT
DO NOT INVOLVE
THE SWORD.



YOU ARE TO
WORSHIP HIM
AS A GOD.
IF YOU DO,
HE WILL
NEVER RISE
AGAIN AS A
DEMON.



LISTEN,
EMPEROR GO-
SHIRAKAWA.

AAHHH

I AM A
MESSENGER
OF EMPEROR
SUTOKU.



YES!!
I PROMISE
I WILL
EMPEROR
SUTOKUI



I PROMISE!
EMPEROR
SUTOKUI

IT IS HUMANS WHO
CREATE DEMONS,
BUT ALSO CALM
THEIR RAGING
SPIRITS. THEY
ARE BOTH FOOLISH
AND NOBLE, ARE
THEY NOT?

THAT'S
RIGHT,
MY
MOTHER
WAS A
FOOL.





HMPH, YOU
ACCURSED
DEMON.

IF SHE HAD
NEVER GIVEN
BIRTH TO ME,
SHE WOULD
NEVER HAVE
DIED LIKE THAT.



AND I SHALL
WATCH YOU
UNTIL YOU LOVE
HUMANITY,
AND DESIRE
TO BECOME
HUMAN.



SOMEDAY
YOU WILL BE
BETRAYED BY
HUMANITY,
AND REVEAL
YOUR TRUE
NATURE.
WHEN THAT
HAPPENS,
I WILL
KILL YOU.



BUT MY
MOTHER WAS
ALSO NOBLE.

SHE PROTECTED
ME TO THE END
OF HER LIFE.



IMPOSSIBLE.



NO...DO NOT
UNDER-
ESTIMATE
HUMANITY.



WHEN
EMPEROR MEIJI
ASCENDED TO
THE THRONE,
HE FEARED
THE VENGEFUL
SPIRIT OF
EMPEROR
SUTOKU
AND BUILT
SHIROMINE
TEMPLE IN
KYOTO AS A
SHRINE TO HIM.

THE NATURAL
DISASTERS ENDED,
BUT IMPERIAL RULE
CAME TO AN END
SOON AFTER, AND
AGE OF THE SAMURAI
BEGAN. THE POWER
OF THE EMPEROR
WOULD NOT RETURN
UNTIL THE MEIJI
PERIOD IN THE 19TH
CENTURY.

EMPEROR
GO-SHIRAKAWA
MADE OFFERINGS
TO EMPEROR
SUTOKU,
AND BUILT
TONSHOU
TEMPLE IN HIS
HONOR.

HUMANITY
MADE
HIM A
GOD.

EMPEROR
SUTOKU
DID NOT
BECOME
A GOD ON HIS
OWN.

